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component of the committee amendments with AM0838. (Legislative Journal page 979.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brown, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the third component of the divided committee amendments.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, as Senator Bourne explained, when we passed LB 625 last year, which was a very small bill that made a very small change to the law, we were unaware that the NEOC was already being considered for noncompliance because of an Attorney General's opinion that indicated that the public records law...that the NEOC, in their conciliation agreements, were not exempt from the public records law. And so that, in concert with the passage of LB 625, led to the possible decertification of NEOC to receive these HUD funds. At the time that we voted on LB 625, I pledged that if it jeopardized funding for the NEOC, that we would revisit the issue. And that's what we are doing. Actually, it has been a long and sometimes torturous process of revisiting the issue. But Senator Chambers and I agreed at the time that the bill was passed that we would revisit it. And I...part of my belief in it, in us maintaining those HUD funds, is that we must protect the real people that are possibly subject to discrimination, those very real cases. And this really has to do with the testing process, that is somewhat separate, but the money could have been jeopardized for everything. And so the NEOC has worked very hard with various constituencies. They've actually worked very hard through a number of issues. And I must congratulate them for holding the agency together, in light of their executive director leaving, then changing his mind. The board, who has...you know, when...I suppose when you're...this would probably not be a good poster for the Governor about getting people to serve on boards, because it has turned out to be, I think, probably more than they had reckoned with, in the middle of all of this, finding out that they might lose the fair housing funds. And so they...the chairman of the board is the acting executive director right now of the NEOC. And through this, they have negotiated with the constituencies. They have worked with the realtors who, in good faith, also agreed at the passage of LB 625 that if it jeopardized the funds, we would get